



ST JOHN'S

There's no
place
like St John's

St John's Newsletter

Term 2 Week 2 - Wednesday 29th April 2015

Head of St John's

Ms Shannon Rosewood

Positive Teacher of the Year 2015

The Positive Teacher of The Year Awards are proudly supported by: NAPS I (The National Australian Positive Schools Initiative), Geelong Grammar School Institute of Positive Education, *beyondblue*, Principals Australia Institute, KidsMatter & MindMatters.

There is no greater honour than to be recognised by your peers for the work that you do. Thank you to all the parents that have sent their congratulations for the award that I received last week. It is with great pride that I accept the award on behalf of all the staff of St John's. Amazing programs don't happen unless staff make them happen. Congratulations to Heidi, Liane, Anne, Tori, Jess and Catherine. The additional support of Marcia, Helen and Bec, as well as Specialists, Rowena, Sidonie, Tim and Kirrili, are what makes the St John's team a happy and collaborative one.

How do our staff make St John's a positive place to be?

In Transition, Mrs McCann and Mrs Moore, work tirelessly to make learning fun, engaging and meaningful. The recent morning tea for Mother's Day was a prime example of how staff consider the family as essential to student wellbeing.

Mrs Jess Oehlers is currently raising awareness of leukemia through her 'Shave for a cure' fundraiser. Please help Jess to support a young member of our community. Details can be found on #shaveforsara. We hope to have a St John's fundraising event in the coming weeks. Parents are welcome to come up with their amazing ideas and let me know.

Mrs Tori Packer is connecting Year 1/2 to an indigenous community in the Pilbara region of Western Australia. How does healthy eating impact on our quality of life? What an important focus for our young students.

Mrs Anne Ward ran our recent Bike day. The Tour de St John's was an amazing day. Consider how our students will impact on the lives of children in Africa. Academic results for students in rural Africa could increase by 59% because of our donations to World Bicycle Relief. Mrs Ward is also the brains behind our vegie patch.

Mrs Liane Nixon recently organised our Anzac Day wellbeing breakfast. This was a wonderful morning of community, tasty pancakes and a special ceremony. Mrs Nixon's attention to detail and concern for her students is what makes our school special.

Mrs Heidi Dent works with the leaders of our school to instill pride, responsibility and compassion. She models her values through her actions. Mrs Dent rode alongside our students at the Tour de St John's. She had to face the hardship of MPC hill and the thrill of the downward glide. Well done Mrs Dent! Her total sum of \$300 raised for World Bicycle Relief.

Congratulations to all the staff of St John's. I will accept the upcoming award with pride.



Mathematics Olympiad

This term Year 5 and 6 students will be participating in the NSW Mathematics Olympiad.

The aim of the Maths Olympiad is:

To introduce students to important mathematical concepts
To teach major strategies and develop flexibility for problem solving
To foster creativity and ingenuity and strengthen intuition
To stimulate enthusiasm and enjoyment for mathematics
To provide for the satisfaction, joy, and thrill of meeting challenges
Students will be invited to compete individually (registered player) or as a team in small class groups. All girls and boys will benefit from the challenges set in the competition regardless of ability as it is discussion and collaboration that will improve engagement in Maths.

Here is a sample question for parents to ponder...

1. Each of 8 boxes contains one or more marbles. Each box contains a different number of marbles, except for two boxes which contain the same number of marbles.

What is the smallest total number of marbles that the 8 boxes could contain?

2. Find the whole number which is:
less than 100;
a multiple of 3;
a multiple of 5;
odd, and such that,
the sum of its digits is odd.

National Simultaneous Storytime – Transition to Year 2.

National Simultaneous Storytime is held annually by the Australian Library and Information Association. Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around the country. By facilitating National Simultaneous Storytime we aim to;

- promote the value of reading and literacy;
- promote the value and fun of books;
- promote an Australian writer and publisher;
- promote storytime activities in public libraries and communities around the country;
- provide opportunities to involve parents, grandparents, the media and others to participate in and enjoy the occasion.

This year NSS takes place on Wednesday 27 May at 12am. The Infants and Transition staff will be sharing *The Brothers Quibble* written by Aaron Blabey. A presentation of the story will be a highlight of the event. Ms Bell will play the leading role of Spalding, supported by the talented cast of Mrs Tall and Mrs McCann.

Upcoming events

Armidale Eisteddfod – see details in Music report.

27 National Simultaneous Storytime

29 May - Assembly (Year 3/4 presenting)

3 May – Science ICAS

4 June - Athletics Carnival

5 June - Student free day

8 June - Public Holiday

10 June - French Day – wear your favourite French outfit!!

St John's Music Mrs Rowena Tall

We are just 11 days away from the choral events of the Armidale Eisteddfod and the children have been working very hard to learn their repertoire for the competition. Permission notes have gone home this week for attendance at these events with all the necessary information regarding times and venues. If you are free during these events we would love to have a support crew in the audience.

Please note the different venues for the two days of events. All events on Tuesday 19th May will be held at Lazenby Hall, UNE and the events on Wednesday 20th May will be held at the Old Teachers' College. Entry fee for these events is \$3.00. If you have any questions regarding these events please contact me at school.

Following the Eisteddfod, an announcement will be made regarding the choice of musical for 2015. Auditions for the musical will be held later in the term and the show will be presented at the end of Term 3. Rehearsals for principal roles will be held on Friday afternoons after school. All children from Kindergarten to Year 6 will be involved in the musical in some way with class rehearsals taking place during music and choir lessons throughout Term 3.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Stage 3 girls and boys for their commendable efforts on their band instruments. I'm sure you enjoy seeing their progress at home and the children now have the extra incentive of earning house points when they reach certain goals. Practise does make perfect and a little regular practise goes a long way to ensuring success, continued enjoyment and increased self-confidence.

Assembly Awards @ St John's

Congratulations to the following children who received awards in the Week 2 Assembly:

Personal Best Awards

K - Jai Killen
1/2 - Khushi Aila
3/4 - Owen Rice
5 - Chloe Moore
6 - Isabella Collison

St John's Star Award

K - Jessica Flynn
1/2 - Sienna Alldis
3/4 - Arabella Dagg
5 - Lydia Farrar
6 - Bronte Dagg

Athletics Carnival

The St John's Athletics Carnival will be held on Thursday 4th June at the Senior School Oval. If you would like to help at the Athletics Carnival as a time keeper at the start of the day please let Mrs Oehlers know via email.

All students have been practising their dance/march for our opening ceremony, thanks to Mrs McCann's amazing choreography. It should be another spectacular day on the calendar.

Bike Day

Tour de St John's was an amazing success. Thank you to all students and parents for supporting the day, by raising money for the World Bicycle Relief Organisation. Thank you to Mrs Ward and all Junior School staff for a superb morning.



Hockey and Soccer

Hockey commenced last weekend. Unfortunately the weather wasn't very kind and Soccer was called off. We are looking forward to another weekend of sport. This weekend was 'odd sock' weekend at Hockey for 'Donate4Kate'. St John's students were thrilled to be mixing it up for a good cause.

PSSA Cross Country

Congratulations to the students who competed at the PSSA Cross Country carnival on Friday. We hope you had a lovely day and look forward to hearing about your results.



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Our amazing Kindergarten teacher Jess Oehlers has made the decision to shave off her hair to raise money for her goddaughter Sara Lynch. Sara has recently been diagnosed with leukaemia. Sara attended St John's for Transition and is a good friend to several of our students.

There are several events that families can attend to help the cause; Mums are invited to a Ladies' Luncheon event on May 23 (RSVP Wed 20 to 6772 2111). There is also a fund-raising golf day at the Armidale Golf course on Friday 29 May (contact Troy Johnson on 0408711622). This charity event will be followed by a fundraising auction and the shave.

St John's is the kind of school that thinks about others. It would be wonderful if as a school community we could help Jess raise funds to support Sara and her family over the coming months.

St John's Crazy Hair Day will be held on Friday 29 May.

Bring a **donation** and wear your wackiest clothes! Create your own crazy hairstyle, wear a wig or visit the St John's Salon (open from 8:30 am). We are asking parents with creative skills to come and help.

Year 6 girls will be offering these fabulous services:

- Coloured hair spray - \$5
- Hair pieces -\$3 each
- Hairdo of your choice from one of our talented parents or staff - \$10 (Please bring your own hairbrush and ties)

Our Director of Development (and hairdresser to the stars) Mrs Mary Wright will be offering her professional stylist services for an exclusive fee of \$20. Bookings advised!!

Kind regards

Shannon Rosewood
Head of St John's Junior School

'Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time'
-Thomas Merton

This term, Year 5 will be losing themselves in the frozen world of Antarctica. Through the use of a variety of media, the students will create numerous pieces to reflect their impressions of this frozen desert.

They have begun by making a collage Emperor Penguin using contact and tissue paper.



Using Photoshop and a bamboo tablet, they are now working on a digital media piece of an animal of their choice. Students are able to design their work in any style they want i.e. charcoal, pencil, watercolour etc., all with the click of a button. They are also being inspired by the sounds of the sea and while listening to whales singing, they will paint what it is they feel and see in their head, creating an abstract painting of shapes and movement.

